

Message Text

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ACTION SCSE-00

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FM AMCONSUL AMSTERDAM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2313

UNCLAS AMSTERDAM 475

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CASC

SUBJ: ACTIVITIES OF RELIGIOUS GROUP " CHRIST IS THE ANSWER"

REF: AMSTERDAM 472

1. SENATOR HUGHES INTERESTED.

2. GROUP LEADERS MET WITH POLICE AT 2:00 ON AUGUST 29. ACCORDING TO CONGEN CONTACT IN POLICE, POLICE SPOKESMAN TOLD LEADERS BILL LOWRY AND JOE GREER THAT GROUP COULD PREACH GOSPEL ON STREETS BUT COULD NOT PREVENT PROSTITUTES FROM RECEIVING CUSTOMERS, WHO RESENTED DISTURBANCES IN VICINITY OF BROTHELS. HE SAID THAT POLICE WILL ARREST ANY MEMBER OF GROUP WHO VIOLATES DUTCH LAW AS WELL AS TAKE ACTION AGAINST ANY PROSTITUTE OR PROCURER WHO ASSAULTS MEMBER OF GROUP. IN RESPONSE, ACCORDING TO POLICE CONTACT, LOWRY AND GREER INDICATED THAT GROUP WILL CONTINUE TO PREACH IN RED LIGHT DISTRICT, BUT PROMISED THAT MEMBERS WILL OPERATE WITHIN FRAMEWORK OF DUTCH LAW.

3. LATER IN DAY LOWRY, GREER, JOINED BY HAIRGROVE, MET WITH CONSUL GENERAL, WHO URGED MODERATION AND TACT IN CITY NOTED FOR ITS TOLERANCE. LOWRY, APPARENTLY THE LEADER OF THE GROUP, SAID THAT THE POLICE HAD PROMISED POLICE PROTECTION. LOWRY SAID THAT HE HAD INFORMED POLICE OF RUMOR THAT 100 PIMPS MIGHT ATTEMPT TO BURN DOWN TENT SAME NIGHT. ALL THREE SPOKESMEN LEFT IMPRESSION WITH CONSUL GENERAL THAT THEY WOULD EXERCISE RESTRAINT IN CARRYING ON MINISTRY.

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4. HAIRGROVE INFORMED CONSULATE GENERAL THIS MORNING THAT BOTH UNIFORMED AND PLAIN CLOTHES POLICE HAD COME LAST NIGHT TO PROTECT TENT AGAINST ANY ARSON ATTEMPT. HE SAID THAT GROUP HAD NOT SENT BROTHERS AND SISTERS INTO RED LIGHT DISTRICT LAST NIGHT BECAUSE OF PRESS REPORTS THAT GROUP SOUGHT CONFRONTATION WITH PROSTITUTES AND PROCURERS. HE VOLUNTEERED THAT GROUP HAD MET WITH DUTCH SYMPATHIZERS YESTERDAY IN PENTACOSTAL CHURCH AND SAID THAT DUTCH HAD PROMISED TO ACCOMPANY WORKERS INTO STREET TONIGHT. HE INDICATED THAT GROUP WOULD PROBABLY AVOID BLOCK OR SO AREA WHERE VIOLENCE HAD OCCURRED. HAIRGROVE CONFIRMED AUGUST 30 TELEGRAAF ACCOUNT THAT GROUP IN FINANCIAL DIFFICULTY AND WITHOUT FUNDS TO CONTINUE TO VIENNA WHEN IT LEAVES AMSTERDAM.

5. DURING VISIT THIS MORNING HAIRGROVE SAID THAT GROUP HAD VERBAL ASSURANCE THAT PERMIT FOR TENT WOULD BE EXTENDED UNTIL SEPTEMBER 8. THIS SOMEWHAT SURPRISING SINCE POLICE SAID YESTERDAY THAT GROUNDS NEEDED FOR OTHER PURPOSES AND HENCE LITTLE CHANCE OF EXTENSION.

DAVIT

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